November 16 – 22, 2023 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 46 www.associatednewspapers.net

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Vol. 138, No. 46

A section of the Iron Belle Trail, which is expected to travel from Belle Isle to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula officially opened in Van Buren Township last month.

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THE WAYNE EAGLE
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Wayne Police Sgt. Chad Colwell recently graduated from the Michigan Police Executive Development Seminar hosted by the FBI.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 46

City officials and library personnel celebrated the reopening of the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland following the $5 million renovation.

See page 5.

School district audit discovers $17 million deficit

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools district is facing an unexpected $17.6 million budget deficit.

School officials and members of the board of education learned of the budget deficit last week when an audit of district finances discovered the serious budget shortfall which officials had believed was, in fact, a surplus. Board of Education President David Cox reported the surprise findings during a meeting of the board members last week.

"At this moment, right now, we don't exactly know where we are, but we have a tremendous problem that has to be addressed," Cox said in making the deficit public during the meeting.

> *At this moment, right now, we don't exactly know where we are, but we have a tremendous problem that has to be addressed.*

According to the auditor's report, revenue in the district totaled $135 million for the 2023 fiscal year, while expenses totaled $152 million.

Board members agreed that the findings will now require some difficult decisions in efforts to avoid a state takeover of district finances. To avoid that situation and be compliant with state law, the district must maintain 5 percent of the total operating budget. In Wayne Westland, that would be about $5 million, according to school officials. The district currently serves 9,790 students.

Parents expressed concerns that programs like music, art and sports would be subject to budget cuts or elimination.

District officials issued a public statement explaining that the discrepancy was not caused by deliberate miscalculations or misconduct.

"With the complexity of today's budgets, which are made even more complex by the influx of various COVID funds, the discrepancies occurred within the budgeting processes rather than from actual transactions. The diligent efforts of the new financial leadership and staff have been instrumental in identifying these issues during the recent financial review and subsequent budget cycles. The district is diligently working toward obtaining a comprehensive understanding of the final budget projections," the official statement said.

Annual Wayne County holiday Lightfest opens tonight

The traditional holiday Wayne County Lightfest in Edward Hines Park will officially open at 6 p.m. tonight, Thursday, Nov. 16. The highly anticipated display will then be open to vehicles from 6 until 10 p.m. until Sunday, Dec. 24. The Lightfest will be closed Monday and Tuesday evenings.

The entrance to the Lightfest is at 7651 North Merriman Road, which is on Merriman between Ann Arbor Trail and Warren Avenue in Westland, 2.5 miles south of I-96. Wayne County representatives will offer radio alerts to update visitors with important show information. By tuning into AM 1640 within 3 to 5 five miles of the Lightfest entrance, visitors can receive regular updates on wait times, traffic flow, special event and event costs. During the Lightfest, Hines Drive closes to traffic for set-up and operations from 5 until 11:30 p.m. from Ann Arbor Trail to Outer Drive.

Officials cautioned that due to overwhelming response to the Lightfest, wait times may be longer than normal on weekends. Admission fees, which must be paid in cash are $5 for vehicles; $20 for commercial van/RV/limo; $25 for a 20-passenger mini-bus and $50 for a 40 passenger capacity bus.

Advance tickets are available at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center in Westland from 1 until 4 p.m. Monday - Friday at the walk-up window starting Nov. 20.

Pre-paid tickets can be purchased with cash, check or Visa/Mastercard or by phone with a credit card by calling (734) 261-1990 and tickets will be delivered by mail. Officials stressed that all tickets purchased at the Lightfest must be paid by cash. There is no availability for any credit card or check payments.

Bus groups, however, can pre-register their buses and pay ahead of time by check, Visa/Mastercard or cash. Call (734) 261-1990 for more information but bus pre-registration must be done at least one week in advance.

Student led walkout included Israeli flag desecration

While law enforcement officials are confident the recent student walkout and flag destruction at Plymouth Canton Educational Park was protected by free speech, Superintendent of Schools Monica Merritt described the incident as "disruptive" and "in violation of board policies."

A social media post Nov. 1 showed unidentified students ripping apart an Israeli flag while others cheered them on laughing and chanting "Rip it up, rip it up."

The walkout, according to a notice to parents from Merritt on Wednesday, was student organized and student led. The walkout included students from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools, all located on the educational campus in Canton.

> *Plymouth Canton, community schools, rejects all forms of discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying.*

Canton police and school security officers were on the scene, according to officials, but did not report witnessing any flag desecration. Canton Police Chief Chad Baugh said the incident was considered a peaceful demonstration and no laws or violations of the Constitution were violated. He noted that in the current political climate, law enforcement departments are being cautious in their approach. He added that the department was prepared had the demonstration become a flashpoint for a larger incident.

In her communication to families, Merritt said the district would provide help to students or staff members who needed support following the demonstration.

"Plymouth Canton, community schools, rejects all forms of discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying," Merritt's said in the letter. "We are reviewing this matter and will apply discipline consistent with our policies. I urge our families to engage in open and constructive discussions with their children about the importance of respectful and peaceful expression of their views and the consequences of violating to school policies. We are committed to promoting a safe and inclusive environment for all students," she concluded.

Northville

Northville election sees 39 percent voter turnout

About 39 percent of registered voters in the City of Northville cast votes in the election last week, choosing a mayor and two members of the city council.

Mayor Brian Turnbull was uncontested on the ballot and retained his seat. Laura Genitti was the top vote getter in the council race winning 1,226 votes. Incumbent Mayor Pro tem Barbara Moroski-Browne was reelected with 916 votes. Each will fill a four-year term. Incumbent Marilyn Price received 907 votes and Robert Sochacki was the choice of 821 voters.

The newly elected council members will be sworn into office at the Nov. 20 meeting in Northville City Hall. This was the first election using the nine-day early voting option, which drew 13 voters to the polls in Novi and Waterford, off-site locations arranged through the Oakland County Clerk's Office. On Election Day, 422 voters cast their ballots at Precinct 1 (Wayne County voters, at the Northville Community Center) and 297 voted in person at Precinct 2 (Oakland County voters, at Amerman Middle School.) A total of 1,321 voters submitted absentee ballots.

> *The newly elected council members will be sworn into office at the Nov. 20 meeting in Northville City Hall.*

Of 5,254 registered voters in Northville, 2,053 cast ballots in this election or a 39 percent voter turnout, according to the office of City Clerk Mike Smith.

"Thank you to all of the election workers and clerk staff for running a great election and for the voters coming out to vote," Smith said.

Anyone interested in being a precinct inspector for future elections can contact the clerk@ci.northville.mi.us.

Veteran firefighter named as first-ever deputy chief

Tom Hughes, a 19-year veteran of the Northville Township Fire Department has been named as deputy fire chief, a new position for the department.

Hughes will work closely with Fire Chief Brent Siegel in planning, directing, supervising and coordinating the department, expanding the depth and breadth of what it currently accomplishes while striving for constant improvement, according to a prepared statement.

"I have had the privilege of working with Tom for the past 18 years," Siegel said. "He exemplifies our organizational values of professionalism, public outreach and continuous improvement. He has built our fire prevention bureau up from the ground floor and performs at an outstanding level every day."

Hughes' dedication to Northville Township is life-long. He grew up in the community he now serves. He earned his bachelor's degree in public safety studies from Siena Heights University, his master's degree in technology studies from Eastern Michigan and is working on his MBA from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. He joined the Northville Township Fire Department in 2004, was promoted to fire inspector in 2012 and then to fire marshal in 2017.

As fire marshal, he investigates fires, conducts inspections for commercial, business and residential properties and completes plan reviews, among other responsibilities.

> *Tom Hughes is an excellent ambassador for Northville Township..*

Hughes has held several formal leadership roles, including Accreditation Manager, union secretary and founder and president of the Northville Township Firefighters' CharityFund. He is responsible for creating policies, reports and communications, and acts as a liaison with community stakeholders and township staff.

Hughes developed the department fire prevention division, introducing such innovative community risk reduction initiatives as the Kindergarten Fire and Life Safety Program. This year alone, the program reached 368 kindergarten students in 17 classes in six elementary schools. Since 2017, the program reached 114 kindergarten classes and more than 2,500 students who have learned fire prevention skills.

His new role is effective Jan. 1. Four internal candidates applied for the position. Hughes will remail fire marshal until that time. Fire department officials will begin the selection process to select for the next fire marshal who will also start Jan. 1.

Hughes and his wife are the parents of two elementary-age children.

"Tom Hughes is an excellent ambassador for Northville Township," said Northville Township Supervisor Mark J. Abbo. "He is well-known in the fire industry for his innovative ideas, his expertise and his kindness. He has demonstrated that he will thrive in this new role."

Hughes said he is humbled to be stepping in as deputy fire chief. "Serving the township with this incredible team has truly been an honor, and I look forward to supporting the men and women of our team in a new role," he said. "I firmly believe that these such promotions are not earned alone. The unwavering support of my friends, family, mentors-and fundamentally, the exceptional team of professionals within our fire department and the township-is the true foundation of this achievement."

Tom Hughes

The Northville Township Fire Department is an all-hazard fire department that provides fire protection, rescue and Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency medical treatment and transport to the residents, businesses and visitors.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, December 7, 2023, for the following:

COMMUNITY PARKS, RECREATION AND LIBRARY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Bid may be downloaded on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@cantonmi.gov. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 11/16/2023

CN2516 - 111623 2.5 x 2.052

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, November 30, 2023, for the following:

CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATIONS NOVEMBER 2023

Bid may be downloaded on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@cantonmi.gov. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 11/16/2023

CN2516 - 111623 2.5 x 2.052

CITY OF ROMULUS
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus Board of Zoning Appeals will hold the following public hearings at **7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, December 6, 2023** at the Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road to consider the following petitions:

1. BZA-2023-019; **Israel Gutierrez Jr.**, requesting a variance from Section 3.04(3)(b), Accessory Buildings of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of a pole barn that exceeds the maximum total square footage of accessory buildings (up to 2,400 sq. ft. is allowed and 4,000 sq. ft. is requested). The property is 4.875 acres and is located at **16004 Middlebelt Road** (Parcel ID #80-137-99-0018-000).

Copies of the applications are available for review in the Planning Department located at the Department of Public Services (12600 Wayne Road) during regular business hours which are 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Any questions regarding the application should be directed to Carol Maise, City Planning in the Planning Department at 734-955-4530. Written comments may be submitted and should be addressed to the Planning Department, 12600 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said requests. Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the Planning Secretary (734-955-4530) 48 hours prior to the meeting. Our staff will be pleased to make necessary arrangements.

Ellen Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan
Publish: November 16, 2023

RM0768 - 111623 2.5 x 3.818

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CANTON - PLYMOUTH

Dunning Foundation grant will fund Arc renovations

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County has received a $50,000 grant from The Margaret Dunning Foundation to complete building renovations at the new Canton Township headquarters of the organization. The grant will fund the installation of new flooring and carpet which will add to the safety and usability of the building, officials said.

Founded in 1961, The Arc of Northwest Wayne County is a grassroots membership nonprofit that strives to improve the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc moved into a larger building in Canton more than a year ago, which allowed the organization to grow its programs, services, and staff to reach more families in need of support, according to a statement from the group. The larger space also provided the opportunity for the Arc to host members, classes, and other organizations. "This grant will not only help the Arc NW continue to serve those with disabilities, but also help the larger community as the organization's new building upgrades create an inclusive space that is open to all," the statement said.

Using the funds from the building grant, the space will be renovated to be ADA compliant, safe, and inviting for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the larger community. The carpeting first installed in 1997 will be replaced with safer new carpet and vinyl flooring. Renovations also include the inclusion of a sensory-friendly carpet in the playroom for children with disabilities who learn in that space.

> *The grant will fund the installation of new flooring and carpet which will add to the safety and usability of the building*

Renovations are expected to be complete in December with additional touch-ups and the transportation of furniture back into all common spaces by the end of January 2024. The Arc NW is regionally-focused on the northwest area of Wayne County, serving the communities of Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Redford. To learn more, visit www.thearcnw.org.

Special salute

Members of the Plymouth Noon Rotary Club paid a special tribute to the two remaining World War II veteran members of the club during the regular meeting last week. Veterans were joined by Army National Guard Sgt. First Class Todd Bush, at left, and Gabriel Lynn, far right. Army veteran Dr. Bob Peterson, a long-time Rotary Club member and retired funeral director Win Schrader, also a long-time member of the club were honored for their service by their fellow club members.

Photo by David Willett

Potters' Guild sale begins tomorrow

The annual Village Potters Guild of Plymouth Holiday Market will begin tomorrow and continue through Sunday, Nov. 19.

The guild, a decades old organization, was formed to promote and develop the art of ceramics. The common interest of members is to bring handmade ceramic items to everyday life.

The sale this year will include works of artist members, as well as invited guest artists, offering a variety of functional and decorative ceramics for purchase, organizers said.

The annual event will take place in the historic factory district of Plymouth, at 326 North Main St., just north of the railroad tracks. Guild members transform the 2,000-square-foot studio workspace into a holiday marketplace with items that are great for gift giving, organizers said. There will be a large selection of mugs, bowls, platters and vases, along with a festive variety of ornaments and holiday-themed items, she said, along with some original fine art offerings including paintings, woodcraft, jewelry and others.

The open-to-the-public Holiday Market takes place only once each year.

This year, the market will be open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. tomorrow and Saturday and from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19.

Holiday shows are slated

The holiday season at Village Theater at Cherry Hill will see the return of Irish tunes and dancing courtesy of Christmas with the Celts, a magic show and the popular Detroit Circus.

Christmas with the Celts returns Dec. 9 with a special matinee performance. This immersive, family holiday show features both traditional Irish tunes along with contemporary classics with a Celtic flair, accompanied by Irish dancing and humor. Award-winning magician Aaron Radatz returns with his annual holiday magic show on Dec. 21, and the Detroit Circus returns for their annual New Year's Eve performance Dec. 31.

PJs sought by charity

Area residents have an opportunity to keep children in need warm this winter. Friends of Unity is seeking warm pajamas for children 4 to 14 years old. The pajamas will go to God's Storehouse, a Detroit charity that assists people who are homeless or living in poverty. Donors can drop off clothing through Dec. 3. Take donations to the Plymouth Community Arts Council building at 774 N, Sheldon Road, Plymouth. Clothing can be placed in a labeled drop box in the lobby from noon until 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays and from 9 a.m. until noon Sundays. Hours are subject to change: https://www.plymoutharts.com/

The annual children's clothing drive is a collaborative effort started by Song and Spirit, a Royal Oak interfaith nonprofit. Mary Gilhuly, co-founder and volunteer for the group, works with several faith organizations including the Friends of Unity in Plymouth/Canton, Northville and beyond.

WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE
Eric R. Sabree - Wayne County Treasurer

Property tax payment plans are available now!

Interest Reduction Stipulated Payment Agreement (IRSPA)
This payment plan reduces the interest rate from 18% to 6% for eligible taxpayers. To sign up, you must own and live in your home, and have a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) and ID that proves residency.

Distressed Owner Occupant Extension (DOOE)
This program is not available to everyone. If you own and live in the property, and are suffering financial hardship you may qualify for this program. Proof of ownership, occupancy, and hardship are required.

Stipulated Payment Agreement (SPA)
Available to everybody, this plan allows a taxpayer to pay taxes pursuant to a payment schedule. The plan will avoid foreclosure provided that payments are submitted per the agreed upon schedule.

Pay As You Stay Payment Agreement (PAYSPA)
Only for those who have first applied for their local municipality's Poverty Tax Exemption (PTE) and received an approval. Once notified by your local Assessor's office and deemed eligible, our office will mail you a notification letter with your Reduced Amount Due. You will have the option of paying a lump sum (additional 10% off) or enrolling into a PAYSPA.

Many of these plans are available online at treasurer.waynecounty.com!

For more information, email WCTOPaymentPlans@waynecounty.com or call (313) 224-5990.

Inkster - Romulus

Judge sentences killer of nurse to 35-60 years

Jamere Mykel Miller, 36, of Inkster, will spend 35 to 60 years in the Michigan Department of Corrections after he admitted he murdered Patrice Wilson, 29.

Miller was charged by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy last May with the homicide of Wilson of Redford. The victim was working as a nurse at Detroit Receiving Hospital and reportedly was ending their romantic relationship at the time of her death.

According to prosecutors, at about 7:53 a.m. May 13, Miller disguised himself with a wig, a hat and glasses and waited for Wilson to leave work. As she entered her car, Miller admitted he went to the back passenger side of the vehicle and fired a handgun multiple times, fatally wounding her. Miller then got into the driver's seat and fled from the scene.

The investigation by the Detroit Police Department led to evidence in Inkster, Garden City and Novi. Wilson's car was found in Novi at 2:19 p.m. May 13 and her lifeless body still in the rear of the vehicle. Miller turned himself in to Detroit police officers on May 14.

Miller entered a guilty plea on Oct. 10 to one count of second-degree murder with a sentence agreement of 35 to 60. He was sentenced according to the plea agreement before Judge Kevin Cox last week. The first-degree murder and felony murder counts originally charged were dismissed along with one count of carjacking, one count of armed robbery, one count of felon in possession of a firearm, and five counts of felony firearm.

Romulus Tree Lighting to include Holiday Train

The traditional holiday tree lighting in Romulus is set for 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24 at Romulus Historical Park.

During the official tree lighting in Romulus, Mayor Robert McCraight will present the "Key to the City" to Santa as he arrives for the celebration.

A special guest helper is expected to help flip the switch to light the community tree.

Following the lighting of the tree, the city will host a number of activities while visitors await the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train as it passes through Romulus between 8 p.m. and midnight. There will be holiday vendors, crafts, live entertainment, pictures with Santa, food trucks and more and other activities planned.

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train is a holiday illuminated train that travels across two historic railways (Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern) spreading holiday cheer and raising donations to help those struggling with food insecurity.

The 2023 Holiday Train tours Canada and the United States Nov. 20 through Dec. 19, raising money, food and awareness for the important work that food banks do in their communities.

Since its inception in 1999, the Holiday Train has generated more than $22.5 million and more than 5 million pounds of food for community food banks across North America.

The holiday tree lighting in Romulus will include a sighting of the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train after Santa receives the key to the city from Romulus Mayor Robert McCraight.

Graduation day

Romulus Police Chief Robert Pfannes was on hand earlier this month during graduation ceremonies at the Wayne County Regional Police Academy. Three of the graduates are candidates for the Romulus department, Pfannes said. New graduates, from left, Christian Otter and Marcus Matheson were congratulated by Pfannes, along with candidate Nathaniel Sims, Romulus Police Lt. Eric Smith and Sgt. Otter, proud father of Ofc. Christian Otter.

Senior Summit planned

The Inkster Police Department will host a Senior Crime Prevention Summit from 6 until 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, at the Booker T. Dozier Recreation Center.

The event topics will include senior safety tips; scam prevention; Neighborhood Watch programs and emergency preparedness. Officials said the summit would be an opportunity for seniors to learn, engage, and connect with the community.

The recreation center is located at 2025 Middlebelt Road in Inkster.

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59. Auctions

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NOVEMBER 22, 2023
10:00 AM**

2016 CHEVROLET
1G1PE5SB6G7104952
2014 CHEVROLET
1G11E5SL4EF216604
2015 CHEVROLET
1GNSKKKC2FR137216
2015 CHEVROLET
2G1165S39F9270178
2013 CHEVROLET
2GNFLGEK6D6408561
2016 CHEVROLET
2GNALCEK4G1133406
2013 ACURA
19UUA9F55DA002169
2017 GMC
1GKS2HKJ7HR248703
2011 CADILLAC
3GYFNAEY3BS532235
2003 DODGE
1D4GP25R83B282204
2002 DODGE
3D7HU18N82G202490
2009 DODGE
2D8HN54199R520190
2011 DODGE
2D4RN5DG1BR682881
2021 TOYOTA
4T1KZ1AK7MU059853
2008 FORD
2FMDK36C78BB48120
2010 CHEVROLET
2CNFLNEWXA6216311
2010 CADILLAC
1G6DL5EG2A0146514
2013 CADILLAC
1G6DG5E5XD0109282
2005 FORD
1FTSX20595EC60631

On Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 11:00 am, Frazier's Auto Service Towing located at 35830 Van Born Rd, Wayne, Mi, County of Wayne, will conduct a public auction of Impounded and Abandoned vehicles. The following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2014 LINCOLN
3LN6L2JK2ER803134
2007 BUICK
1G4HD57297U105940
The above vehicles are impounded through the City Of Romulus Police Department.

2005 FORD
1FTSX20535EC87713
2003 DODGE
1D7HL12X23S326844
The above vehicles are impounded through the City Of Westland Police Department.

2013 NISSAN
3NLCN7APXD1832136
The above vehicles are impounded through the City Of Taylor Police Department.

2009 LINCOLN
1LNHM94R29G620210
2016 CHEVROLET
1G1ZE5STXGF176258
2016 DODGE
2C3CDXJG6GH140778
2009 JEEP
1J8GR48K09C504067
2016 NISSAN
1N4AL3AP4GN373327
2018 FORD
1FMCU0GD6JUA40700
2010 JEEP
1J4NT2GB7AD551983
2013 DODGE
1C3CDZAB7DN536496
2002 VOLKSWAGON
1C3CDZAB7DN536496

All Vehicles are sold in "as is condition". Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction. This is a cash only sale and all vehicles must be paid in full at the conclusion of the auction.

WESTLAND

A new chapter
Library renovation is celebrated

The William P. Faust Public Library in Westland has opened a new chapter following a $5 million renovation.

City officials and library personnel celebrated the extensive renovation with an official reopening Nov. 2. The renovation was funded through the library along with savings incurred from closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. A millage approved by Westland voters allowed the library to use the funds while still being able to cover their operating costs.

> *The renovation work took nearly a year.*

The renovation work took nearly a year during which time library services temporarily moved into the former Marshall Upper Elementary School building to continue to serve the community.

The renovation included the creation of better acoustics throughout the library, the installation of seven new, state-of-the-art meeting rooms, a new program room for youth and families, and a new teen area where young adults can enjoy a space specifically designed for them. The renovation also saw the return of comfortable seating throughout the library and the creation of an outdoor patio area where visitors can both plug-in and work or relax.

"With this update and expansion of the Westland Public Library has become more of a community center for everyone to enjoy," commented Library Director Jennifer Roth.

"Our library staff, led by Library Director Jennifer Roth, worked very hard throughout this process to ensure a continuation of service for a vital amenity for the Westland community," commented former Mayor Michael P. Londeau. "I am immensely thankful for all the work they do, and I am incredibly thankful that the people of Westland have such a great amenity and resource in the public library.

The library is located at 6123 Central City Pkwy.

City officials and library personnel welcomed crowds to the newly-renovated Willaim P. Faust Public Library of Westland last week. Renovations included age and topic specific reading rooms and an outdoor patio along with new seating.

City of Westland wins workplace diversity award

The City of Westland has been named as the winner of the 2023 Apex Award from InCompass Michigan, the leading statewide network of human service organizations. The award honors Westland as "an outstanding employer with a rich workplace culture that recognizes and celebrates diverse backgrounds, perspectives, skills and abilities."

Westland was nominated for the award by Aimee Szabo of Services to Enhance Potential (STEP).

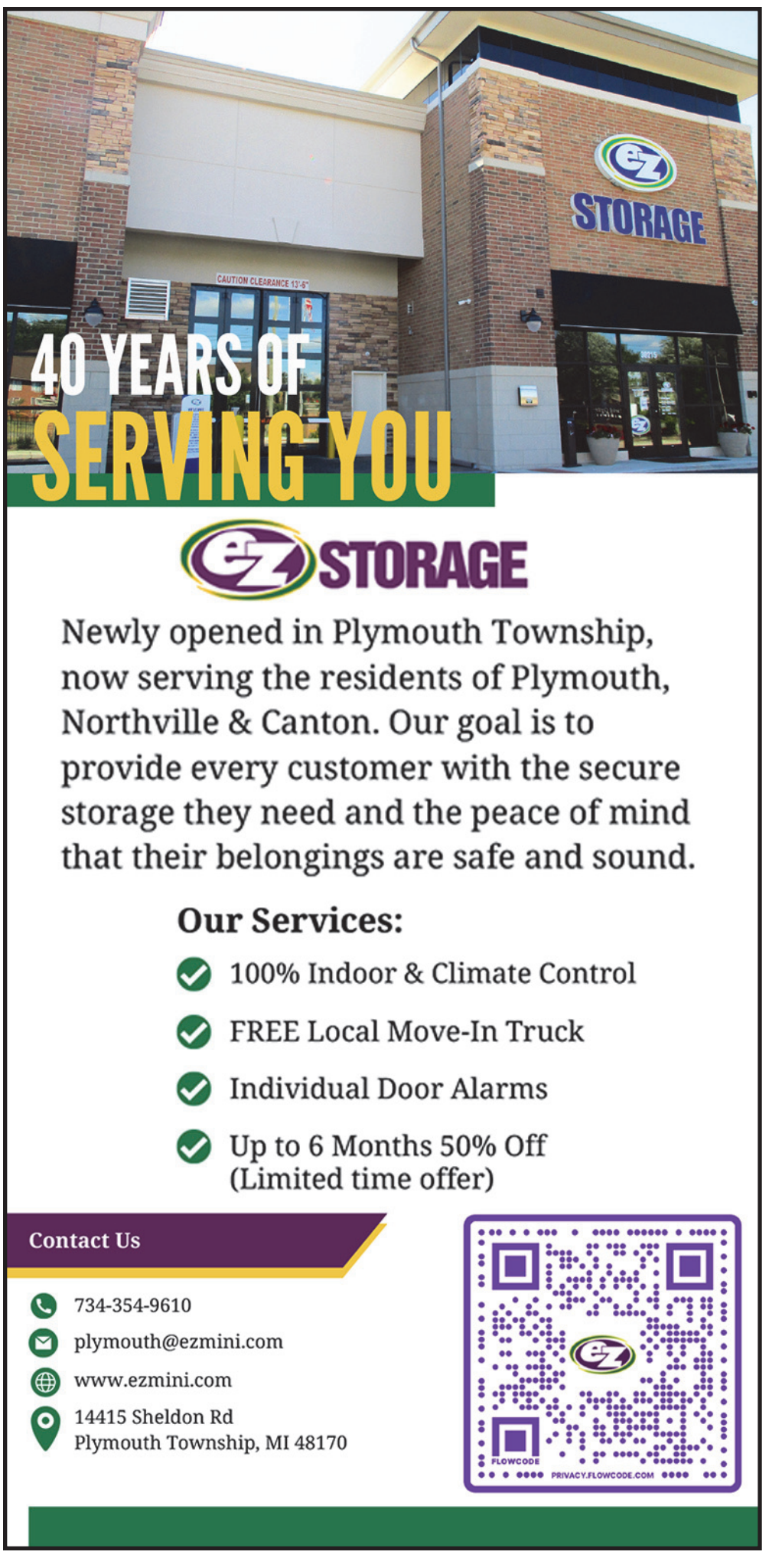
"The award was designed to honor an organization that has fostered exceptional employment opportunities for people with disabilities and other barriers to community access in Michigan and demonstrated a commitment to inclusion and diversity in hiring practices, training and talent development," commented InCompass Michigan COO, Laurie Morse-Dell,

Westland has an increasingly diverse population of 86,000 and is Michigan's 10th largest city, officials said. The persons with disabilities population in Westland under the age of 65 is currently 11.9 percent. Minorities, including Blacks, Asians and Hispanics, make up over 30 percent of the population.

"It is so heartwarming to know that our multifaceted effort in encouraging and deepening diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in all aspects of our city is bearing good fruits, and getting recognized statewide," commented former Westland Mayor Michael P. Londeau. "Adherence to the city's Non-Discrimination Ordinance in all areas - from employment to housing - and keeping city buildings compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) remains an important part of Westland's strong commitment to accessibility and other DEI priorities. Additionally, we plan to collaboratively intensify and expand effort to ensure greater sense of belonging to all members of our community, especially minority groups, and persons living with disabilities," he added.

Chief Diversity Officer C. Paschal Eze, whose department spearheads the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) department efforts expressed gratitude to Londeau, city council members, his colleagues, members of the Disability Advocacy Committee and the DEI Commission, and others for joining forces to help mainstream DEI citywide.

"I believe the award will bolster our collective resolve and commitment. And as I have often posited, we all win when our workplaces, marketplaces, leisure and growth places reflect real inclusion and equity," commented Eze.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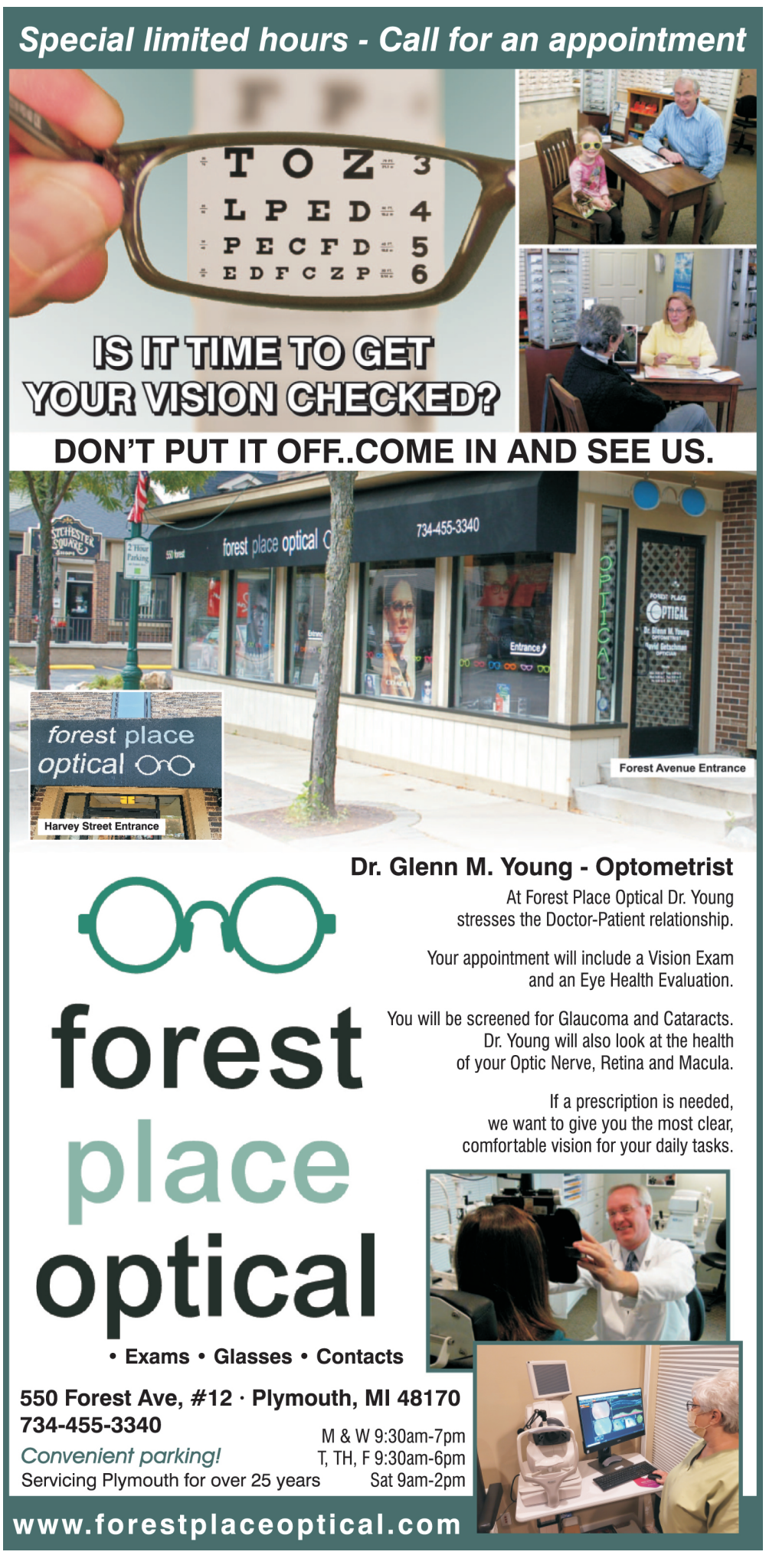
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Belleville - Wayne

Iron Belle Trail section opened in Van Buren

A section of the Iron Belle Trail, which is expected to travel from Belle Isle to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula officially opened in Van Buren Township last month. The Van Buren Township non-motorized pathway project will close a 7.0 mile gap in the Iron Belle State trail. The path will connect the B2B Trail system (55 miles) in Washtenaw County with the HCMA trail system (30+ miles) that begins in the Lower Huron Metropark and extends southeast to Lake Erie. More than 80 percent of the completed distance will follow the Huron River Greenway while the overall trail will connect dozens of existing parks, schools, central business districts and neighborhoods, according to state officials.

The recreational trail will travel through hundreds of municipalities and cross into 48 different Michigan counties. A portion of the trail runs through Van Buren Township from the Lower Huron Metro Park Trail to the B2B Trail near Grove Street. Section B of the Van Buren Township segment of the Iron Belle Trail runs from Rawsonville Road along I-94 Service Drive and through Van Buren Park.

"The township has gained momentum on constructing the Iron Belle Trail within our community over the past few years, and we are proud that our gap is steadily, but consistently growing smaller. This project would not have been possible without the generous donations from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation and DTE Foundation, in addition to the invaluable partnerships with the Michigan Trails Fund and Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative," stated Director of Community Services Elizabeth Renaud at the grand opening of the Van Buren segment.

"The DTE Foundation believes that a healthy environment is an essential ingredient for thriving communities. Michigan offers a variety of trails and greenspaces that connect us to the natural beauty around us, and the Iron Belle Trail is a perfect example of this local luxury," said Rodney Cole, DTE Foundation president.

"We're committed to preserving, protecting and improving Michigan's treasured natural habitats andspecies, and this support builds on the 100+ year partnership between DTE and Van Buren Township, which has created countless, invaluable recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors."

Van Buren Township and state officials, along with members of the community, celebrate the opening of the Iron Belle Trail section in the township. The non-motorized recreational pathway connects 48 Michigan counties.

Safety steps

Sumpter Township Police Sgt. Beth Egerer visited Keystone Academy recently to talk to students as part of Public Safety Week. Egerer talked to the students about safety measures they could employ and spoke to children from the Young 5s, another class of kindergarteners and the first-grade students. Egerer talked to 200 students about respect for each other, bullying and explained some of the equipment police officers carry.

Learning experience

Wayne Police Sgt. Chad Colwell recently graduated from the Michigan Police Executive Development Seminar. The seminar is a week-long course targeted toward current or future law enforcement executives. The course focuses on leadership, critical incident management, modern supervision techniques, and other management skills. The Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy Associates - Michigan Chapter sponsors the training annually and executives presented Colwell with his certificate of completion.

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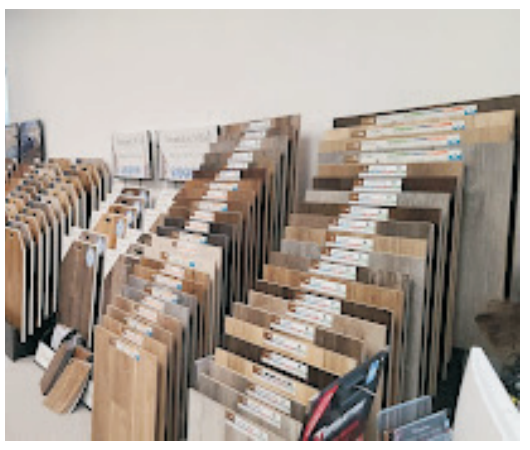

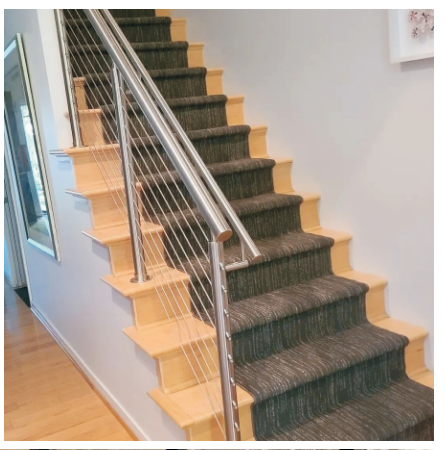

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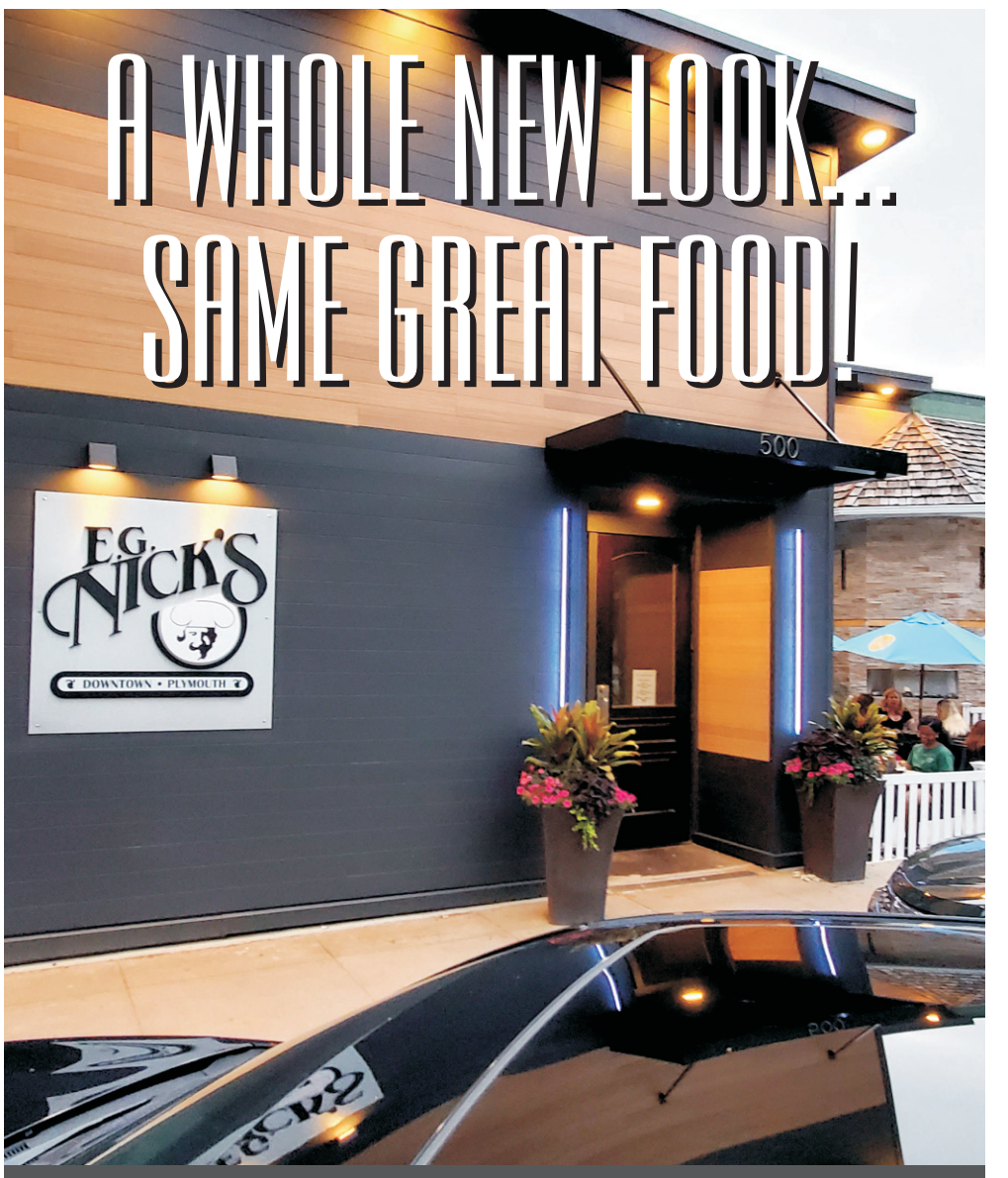

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